

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 126146

FOOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 126146 ACTION MEXICO 30 MAY.

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 126146

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST SSTTORY REPORTS DEA ADMINISTRATOR
RESIGNS

1. MAY 30 ISSUE OF WASHINGTON POST CARRIED STORY ASSERTING
THAT DEA ADMINISTRATOR HAS RESIGNED. VERBATIM TEXT OF
ARTICLE FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: BARTELS QUIT AS CHIEF OF U.S. DRUG AGENCY. BY
DOUGLAS WATSON, WASHINGTON POST STAFF WRITER.

JOH R. BARTELS JR. HHAS RESIGNED AS HEAD OF THE DRUG EN-
FORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, A DEA SPOKESMAN SAID LAST NIGHT.

BARTELS RESIGNED AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE 4,000-EMPLOYEE
ANTI-DRUG AGENCY AT THE REQUEST OF THE WHITE HOUSE, A
RELIABLE SOURCE SAID.
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BARTELS HAS HEADED DEA SINCE ITS CREATION IN JULY, 1973,
TO CONSOLIDATE THE NATION'S WAR ON NARCOTICS. THROUGHOUT
ITS TWO-YEAR EXISTENCE, DEA HAS BEEN BESET BY DISPUTES
AMONG ITS EMPLOYEES AND ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSES AND MIS-

MANAGEMENT.

DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL HAROLD R. TYLER JR. WAS DIRECTED BY THE WHITE HOUSE WEDNESDAY TO CONVEY THE RESIGNATION

REQUEST TO BARTELS, A FAMILY FRIEND, TYLER CALLED BARTELS THAT DAY, A RELIABLE SOURCE SAID, AND TOLD HIM THE RESIGNATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE WHITE HOUSE BY THIS MORNING.

BARTELS MET WITH TYLER YESTERDAY MORNING, AND THEN, AT A BRIEF MEETING AT 6 P.M. YESTERDAY, TOLD TOP DEA OFFICIALS THAT HE WAS RESIGNING.

THE 41-YEAR OLD FORMER PROSECUTOR THEN LEFT FOR HIS HOME IN GARRISON, N.Y., WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT. THE AGENCY SPOKESMAN SAID DEA EMPLOYEES WILL BE INFORMED OF BARTELS' RESIGNATION THIS MORNING.

A RELIABLE SOURCE SAID THAT AN UNIDENTIFIED AIDE TO PRESIDENT FORD CALLED TYLER WEDNESDAY AND DIRECTED BARTELS' SUPERIORS IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO ASK FOR HIS RESIGNATION.

THE WHITE HOUSE, ATTORNEY GENERAL EDWARD H. LEVI AND TYLER HAD NO COMMENT YESTERDAY ON BARTELS' RESIGNATION.

LEVI WAS ASKED ABOUT BARTELS' STATUS DURING A MORNING PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY ABOUT THE TIME BARTELS WAS MEETING WITH TYLER.

"SO FAR AS MR. BARTELS IS CONCERNED, I THINK IT HAS TO BE REALIZED THAT A NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL, EVEN THOUGH HE'S BEEN IN OFFICE FOUR MONTHS, AND A NEWER DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL QUITE NATURALLY ARE REVIEWING THE POSITIONS OF PERSONS SUCH AS MR. BARTELS,' LEVI SAID.

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ADDED, 'A GREAT DEAL CAN BE SAID ABOUT DEA. IT'S DONE MANY GOOD THINGS. I'M NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH IT NOW."

SOURCES SAID THAT LEVI WAS AWARE OF THE WHITE HOUSE'S REQUEST FOR BARTELS' RESIGNATION AT THE TIME OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE, BUT UNAWARE OF BARTELS' RESPONSE. THEY SAID THAT BARTELS DID NOT MEET WITH LEVI.

THE REQUEST FOR BARTELS' DEPARTURE FROM THE CONTROVERSIAL AGENCY CAME AS HEARINGS ON ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEA ARE ABOUT TO BE HELD BY THE SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS, HEADED BY SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON (D-WASH). THE HEARING HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK, BUT

BECAUSE OF CONFLICTING COMMITMENTS BY SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS WAS POSTPONED YESTERDAY UNTIL JUNE 9.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE HAS NOT ANNOUNCED WHAT ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEA ITS STAFF HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING FOR A MONTH, BUT IT IS KNOWN TO BE PROBING CHARGES THAT DEA HAS NEVER GOTTEN ITSELF WELL ORGANIZED AND OPERATING SMOOTHLY SINCE ITS CREATION TWO YEARS AGO.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE ALSO IS EXPECTED TO CALL WITNESSES WHO WILL ALLEGE THAT, UNDER BARTELS, DEA FREQUENTLY HAS FAILED TO INVESTIGATE AND ACT ON ALLEGATIONS OF UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AGAINST ITS OFFICIALS AND AGENTS.

A RELIABLE SOURCE SAID THAT NO ONE HAS ACCUSED BARTELS OF DISHONESTY OR CORRUPTION, BUT THAT WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS DECIDED THAT BARTELS WAS SO MUCH INVOLVED DEFENDING DEA AGAINST THE INCREASING ALLEGATIONS THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP NEEDED BY THE AGENCY.

LEVI HAS HAD A THREE-LAWYER PANEL REVIEWING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEA, BUT HAD NOT RECEIVED ITS REPORT. LEVI HAD NOT RECOMMENDED BARTELS' RESIGNATION TO THE WHITE HOUSE, A RELIABLE SOURCE SAID.

BETWEEN JULY, 1973, AND DECEMBER, 1974, DEA AGENTS JOINED WITH FOREIGN AND U.S. POLICE IN MAKING MORE THAN 25,000 UNCLASSIFIED

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DRUG ARRESTS AND SEIZING 7,235 POUNDS OF HEROIN, 2510 POUNDS OF COCAINE, 36.6 MILLION DOSAGE UNITS OF OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS AND 687 TONS OF MARIJUANA.

HOWEVER, DEA RECENTLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE FLOW OF COCAINE MARIJUANA AND HASHISH INTO THIS COUNTRY APPEARS TO BE AT RECORD LEVELS AND THAT HEROIN ALSO MAY AGAIN BE ON THE UPSURGE.

BARTELS' RESIGNATION CAME SHORTLY AFTER LEVI HALTED THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S LONG-STANDING OPPOSITION TO DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA, TEMPORARILY TAKING NO POSITION WHILE REVIEWING THE OPTIONS.

THE DEA SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AT 9 A.M. TODAY JERRY N. JENSON, DEA'S DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR IS TO MEET WITH TYLER. JENSEN IS EXPECTED TO BE ASKED TO BECOME ACTING ADMINISTRATOR UNTIL A NEW ADMINISTRATOR IS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT.

BARTELS IS A FORMER CHIEF OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S STRIKE FORCE AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME IN NEWARK, N.J., AND A FORMER ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY.

HE IS ALSO A FORMER OFFICIAL OF THE OFFICE OF DRUG ABUSE

LAW ENFORCEMENT, WHICH WAS MERGED INTO DEA ALONG WITH
THE BUREAU OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, ABOUT
700 U.S. CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES AND THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL
NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE. UNQUOTE

2. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS FROM DEA THAT BARTELS' RE-
SIGNATION BECAME OFFICIAL THIS MORNING. (5/30/75).
INGERSOLL UNQUOTE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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